

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data reception section of a document publication system receives document data that is inputted as an object of publication, and supplies the received document data to a data registration control section. The data registration control section which received the document data registers the document data in a data storage section. A data publication section publishes (opens to the public) the document data that has been registered in the data storage section by use of a public medium such as the Internet, television, radio, newspaper, magazines, etc., while the data registration control section records publication time of the document data by the data publication section in a management table. When there is a request for the verification of publication time of document data, the data registration control section searches the management table and the data storage section and thereby obtains the document data and publication time of the document data. A certificate issuing section converts the document data and the publication time to a format capable of preventing tampering of data, and sends the converted data to the requester of the verification as a certificate.